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EDITORIAL NOTES.

DR. GUSTAV W. KÖRBER, lichenologist, died July 28, at Breslau, in his sixty-ninth year.

DR. H. W. REICHARDT, of the University of Vienna, died on August 2, at fifty years of age.

DR. E. KOEHNE, of Berlin-Friedenau, is now editor of the *Botanischer Jahresbericht*, succeeding Professor Just.

THE GAZETTE was the only purely botanical paper represented. The entire editorial staff was there, "taking notes."

DR. ASA GRAY asks that botanists, who can do so conveniently, will send him seeds of *Coreopsis aristosa*, *Baptisia leucophæa*, and *B. leucantha*.

MR. CHARLES WRIGHT, the botanist and explorer, died at Wethersfield, Conn., August 11, at the age of seventy-four.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MICROSCOPISTS will hold its 1886 meeting at Chautauqua, N. Y. Prof. T. J. Burrill, of Illinois, is president for the coming year.

DR. H. MAYR, teacher in the University at Munich, is taking a four months' journey in America to study the forest vegetation, as we learn from the *Botanisches Centralblatt*.

MR. A. B. SEYMOUR takes the place in the University of Wisconsin vacated by Prof. Trelease. Mr. Seymour has heretofore been connected with the Botanic Gardens at Cambridge.

PROF. BESSEY calls attention to the fact that the styles ("silk") of Indian corn furnish excellent studies in protoplasmic activity. Young styles should be taken from an ear which has been kept in a warm place for an hour or so.

A DISTINCT odor has been noticed by Plowright in the spermagonia of *Puccinia Vinææ* growing on the large periwinkle. It may yet be shown that the spermagonia of the *Uredinææ* attract insects to some purpose.

THE SEPTEMBER NUMBER of the *Journal of Mycology* is devoted to an enumeration of the North American species of the genus *Glœosporium* by Ellis and Everhart. Forty-seven species are described with index of species and host plants.

PHOTOGRAPHS recently received of the new Botanical Garden of the University of Liège show most complete and elaborate grounds and buildings, and the botanist's European trip will no longer be complete without a visit to Prof. Edouard Morren.

AMONG BOTANISTS present were M. S. Bebb, W. J. Beal, E. W. Holway, C. E. Bessey, L. H. Bailey, Jr., V. M. Spalding, W. R. Lazenby, L. M. Underwood, D. H. Campbell, C. F. Wheeler, E. F. Smith, T. J. Burrill, B. D. Halsted, J. J. Davis, Miss L. J. Martin, J. F. James, F. L. Scribner. An inspection of the full list (of which the above is a small fraction) shows that the western botanists were out in force.

THE BROOKVILLE (IND.) SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY is a very active organization, and has just published its first bulletin. The exogenous flora of Franklin county, by O. M. Meyncke, and a list of diatoms, by Dr. E. G. Grahn, are the papers of botanical interest.

DR. FRANKLIN B. HOUGH, well known in this country and Europe for his interest in forestry, died at his home in Lowville, N. Y., June 9, in his sixty-third year. He gave considerable attention to phanerogamic botany, one of his earlier works being an account of the flora of Lewis county, N. Y.

DR. FREIHERR VON BRETTFELD, recent botanist to the Agricultural Experiment Station at Halle, Germany, has just accepted the professorship of agricultural botany at the Polytechnikum at Riga. He has recently published an excellent work of 250 pages on the physiology of plants in relation to agriculture.

THE PRESENCE of nuclei, chromatophores and pyrenoids in several members of the *Phycochromaceæ* has been demonstrated by Hansgirg in a paper before the German Botanical Society. They occur in the lower members of the order, while the higher groups, the *Lyngbyeæ*, *Calotricheæ*, and *Scytonemææ*, appear to have none.

A LIST of European Carices, by Dr. H. Christ, published in the "Comptes-rendus" of the Royal Botanical Society of Belgium, shows 151 species, grouped under 36 sections. There are 98 species and 21 sections of *Heterostachyæ*; 37 species of *Homostachyæ*; 2 species of *Cephalophoræ*; and 14 species of *Monostachyæ*.

A COMMITTEE has recently been appointed in France to obtain sufficient money to erect a monument to Pierre Belon, a naturalist of the sixteenth century (1517-1564), who did good work for the botany of that day. *La Belgique Horticole* for January and February is largely made up of an account of Pierre Belon, his life and works, accompanied by a portrait engraved in the year 1855.

THE MARRIAGE OF Dr. N. L. Britton and Miss Elizabeth G. Knight, of New York City, occurred on the 27th of August. Both are well known botanists, and the fact of their marriage was made known to the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S. by the chairman as a matter of botanical news. The club received the announcement with applause, and immediately ordered a congratulatory telegram sent to Dr. and Mrs. Britton.

IN THE FIRST TWO FASCICLES of the *Annuario del R. Istituto Botanico di Roma* for 1885 are some most excellent contributions, accompanied by fine plates. Prof. Pirotta writes concerning the comparative anatomy of certain leaves; also the laticiferous and assimilative systems of certain plants. P. Baccarini contributes a paper upon plant coloring. C. Avetta has made an anatomical study of the vegetative organs of *Pueraria Thumbergiana* (an Asiatic species of *Leguminosæ*).

SCIENCE gives an excellent account of the Ann Arbor meeting of the American Association in its issue of September 11 (40 pp.), each section being reported with great completeness, when the necessarily limited space is considered.

We would offer but one criticism, and that is the unnecessarily harsh way in which reference is made to the merging of "Microscopy" into Biology. As Section G asked for the change, and thus acknowledged its own unnatural existence, the "I-told-you-so" was hardly courteous.

A REVISION of the N. Am. species of the genus *Scleria*, by Mr. N. L. Britton, has just been published in the Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., Vol. iii, No. 7. Mr. Britton has long been at work upon Cyperaceous plants, and it is to be hoped that this brief paper is but a prelude to the promised revision of *Cyperus*. Eleven species of *Scleria* are characterized, none of them new, with full bibliography, synonymy, and range. *S. laxa* Torr. becomes *S. Torreyana* Walpers, while several new varieties are added to the other species of the Manual.

MR. J. G. BAKER, in the *Journal of Botany* for September, gives a synopsis of the Cape species of the Liliaceous genus *Kniphofia*, with descriptions of five new species. The genus is strictly South African, including Madagascar, and this synopsis shows eighteen species. The same author, in the same journal, gives a classification of garden roses, which is surely something sorely needed. It may be necessary, as suggested at Ann Arbor last August, for systematic botanists to turn more of their attention to a classification of cultivated plants.

MR. THOMAS HICK, in the *Journal of Botany*, notes the results of a study of "the Caulotaxis" of British Fumariaceæ. By "caulotaxis" is meant the arrangement and relation of the central and lateral axes of a plant. The axis of these plants is generally sympodial, and the excellent plan was adopted of studying the formation of this pseudaxis in developing plants. As a result it was plainly seen how the leaf-opposed flower clusters are really terminal, pushed aside by a more vigorous branch, a result which exactly accords with the theoretical statement of our text-books.

WE COMMEND the effort of Queen & Co., of Philadelphia, to produce a serviceable laboratory microscope. In the August number of their *Microscopical Bulletin* (an excellent little journal, by the way) they ask teachers to communicate their opinion regarding the most desirable form of instrument, and state the reasons why preferred. Bausch & Lomb, of Rochester, have for some time tried to meet the demand for a suitable laboratory microscope. It looks as if our instrument makers were waking up, and would not much longer force us to import from foreign makers, when a stand is wanted for common daily use.

MR. A. A. CROZIER, of the University of Michigan, has published a thesis bearing the title, "The Modification of Plants by Climate." It has brought together a great amount of scattered material upon this interesting subject, and, not the least valuable part of the paper, a full bibliography is given. Summing up the whole matter, the conclusion reached is as follows: "It seems to be established that as plants move from the locality of their largest development toward their northern limit of growth they become dwarfed in habit, are rendered more fruitful, and all parts become more highly colored. Their comparative leaf surface is often increased, their form modified, and their composition changed. Their period of growth is also shortened and they are enabled to develop at a lower temperature."

DR. J. M. ANDERS, in connection with Dr. G. B. M. Miller, has been continuing his experiments in plant transpiration, and in the *American Naturalist* for September contributes a paper upon the exhalation of ozone by odorous plants. The conclusions reached by his experiments are as follows: 1. Flowering plants, including odorous and inodorous, generate ozone, the former, however, much more actively than the latter. 2. So far as tested, scented foliage does possess the power to produce ozone, and in the case of pine or hemlock foliage in a marked degree. 3. Inasmuch as no reactions occurred on rainy days, it is highly probable that the function demands the influence of the sun's rays, or at least good diffused light.

THE DECEMBER GAZETTE will be a "Laboratory Number," being devoted to accounts of laboratories and laboratory methods. A letter from DeBary's laboratory, brief descriptions of some of our own methods of work, subjects treated, appliances, little conveniences, etc., will be the general features. We would ask every laboratory worker to send us, within a short time, such an account of his own laboratory and methods as he would be glad to receive from other botanists, not forgetting the "little things" which go towards making laboratory work easy. A list of subjects that have been successfully treated by students is much desired by many of our workers. Such accounts will be edited so as to avoid repetition and at the same time lose nothing.

THE FIRST BULLETIN of the new Société Mycologique was received a short time ago. Of the 130 charter members, only three are from the United States. The bulletin has 132 octavo pages and contains a list of Basidiomycetes of the Vosges, a new classification of the fleshy Discomycetes, a diagram of the excursion made at the first meeting, giving the points at which rare species were found, and closes with two poems addressed to mycophiles, recited at a soirée given the society at the country seat of Prof. Forquignon. The prime object of the society is to encourage a better general acquaintance with the edible and poisonous fungi, and it has made a very auspicious beginning. A branch or section of the society might profitably be established in this country.

MISS ANNA A. STOUT, of New York, has announced her intention to bestow upon Brown University the valuable herbarium of her brother, the late William Stout. The collection is especially rich in ferns, and is accompanied by a fern library of about twenty volumes. Miss Stout has already mounted over 1,800 sheets of ferns alone, and estimates that from 800 to 1000 more will be needed. Probably Dr. Garber's Florida phænogams will require 350 more, and the Atkinson collection of N. Himalayan ferns 560 to 570 sheets. Besides these there are many valuable duplicates of well known collectors. What is now sorely needed is a decent endowment of the botanical professorship. A daily struggle for bread and butter is scarcely compatible with the best research, and Prof. W. W. Bailey deserves more time for his own work.

HYPERICUM GYMANTHEMUM Engelm. & Gray has been variously considered either a species or variety of *H. mutilum* L. Recently a small clump of plants was found in a bog near Posen (Western Germany), which turn out to be this same form of *Hypericum*. In the *Berichte der Deutschen Botanischen*

Gesellschaft, for February, appears a paper upon the subject by R. v. Uechtritz and P. Ascherson, in which it appears that our plant is widely distributed throughout Eastern Asia, distinct enough from *H. mutilum*, and bearing a much older name, *H. Japonicum* Thunb. So *H. gymnanthemum* Engelm. & Gray must be considered a good species, and become *H. Japonicum* Thunb. But is it a rare survival, its kindred having gone far to the East? Or has it been introduced in recent times? The authors are inclined to think that it has come from America with clover seed.

WE NOTICE elsewhere the new botany of the Science Series which Messrs. Appleton & Co. are now bringing out as claimants for the favor of High School principals and superintendents. That there is a demand for a book on botany adapted to such schools is undoubted, and that the demand has not yet been met is equally true. The abridged and simplified work of Dr. Bessey comes nearer to it than anything that has yet appeared. That work, however, admirable as it is, is ahead of the times, and we must wait and labor to convince school boards and superintendents that a botanical laboratory, equipped with microscopes, is just as essential to a good school as a chemical laboratory. In the second place, Bessey's book requires a teacher that knows *something* about *all* plants, instead of the kind usually employed who know a *very little* about a few plants, the *phanerogams*, and appear to be wholly ignorant that any others exist.

THE MEETING of the American Pomological Society at Grand Rapids, Mich., September 9 to 11, attracted quite a number of prominent botanists. Prof. Bessey, of Nebraska, gave an evening lecture on fungi in their relation to plant diseases, and a number of others presented papers and took part in the discussions. In the course of a short address Commissioner Colman referred to the new work of the Department in the study of plant diseases, under the charge of Prof. Scribner, and added: "I feel that this is a most important field for investigation, and the attention which has been given to the subject by this meeting confirms the wisdom of the course I have pursued in giving this matter special attention." After the address Prof. Beal, of Michigan, offered the following:

Resolved, That this society heartily commends the action of Commissioner Colman, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in the appointment of a person to investigate the diseases of plants, and desires to assure him of continued support in his efforts to develop this new line of inquiry.

THE ANT-INHABITED PLANTS form an exceedingly interesting subject in the second volume of Beccari's *Malesia*. Hernandez, about the middle of the seventeenth century, described the stipular thorns of *Acacia cornigera* of Central America, into which certain ants eat, feed upon the pulpy interior, and live in the dwelling thus made. Such inhabited thorns grow larger and distorted, and the ants seem to pay for this hospitality by protecting the tree from other marauding insects. Two woody *Rubiaceae*, of Sumatra, were described in 1750 by Rumphius as inhabited by ants. They are both epiphytic and attached to the host tree by a large tuberous base, which is cavernous and occupied by ants. The ants by their irritating presence cause the tuberous growth to en-

large, but the enlargement begins during germination, before the ants attack it, an instance of a plant preparing beforehand for expected guests. It is said that seedling plants which fail to become inhabited perish. Dr. Gray, in a review, says that "it is most supposable that this extraordinary formation was acquired gradually; that the normally fleshy caulicle of the ancestral plant, made a nidus by an insect, developed under the disturbing stimulus somewhat as a gall develops, until at length the tendency became hereditary and the singular adaptation of plant to insect was established."

THE SUDDEN DEATH of Hon. George W. Clinton, of Albany, N. Y., was announced in the papers of September 7. He was seventy-eight years old, a son of DeWitt Clinton, and his name is a very familiar one to botanists, especially those of an earlier day. A part of the promised pleasure of the Botanical Club at Buffalo next year was the presence of this venerable and most entertaining botanist, who knew the plant haunts of that locality better than almost any one, and whose company was always delightful. The lateness of the news prevents any fuller and more worthy notice in this issue. The following from the *New York Tribune* gives some of the details of his death:

ALBANY, September 7.—The body of George W. Clinton, vice-chancellor of the Board of Regents, was found in the Rural Cemetery this afternoon, about a quarter of a mile from the lodge. Of late he had manifested a great interest in the study of botany, and when here before it was his custom to follow his favorite study in the cemetery. Last spring he was a frequent visitor. This afternoon at two o'clock he went up for the same purpose, apparently in his usual health. Reaching the lodge, he rested a while and then started up the avenue, in which direction he was found two hours later. Death had apparently been painless and is attributed to heart disease.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Talks Afield about Plants and the Science of Plants. By L. H. Bailey, Jr. pp. ix, 173. 12mo. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

It is a most praiseworthy desire to present the truths of science correctly to the great mass of people who have neither time nor talent to study for themselves. The press-to-day in its "scientific columns" has done much to disseminate nonsense, and no science has suffered in this respect more than botany. Hence we are always ready to welcome such a book as the one before us—cheap, attractively written, well adapted to its expected readers, and, better than all, truthful so far as it goes. A professional botanist may discover grave omissions in his special department, but such he ought to find in such a book. We bespeak for Mr. Bailey a large circle of readers, and this attempt to make science attractive to all can not be too highly commended. No criticism is needed regarding the many interesting things omitted, but rather the wonder is how many important things have been compressed into these few pages, and an attractive style preserved, a style that is of necessity somewhat diffuse. The topics presented are such as follow: the flower, the stem, the rose family, the composite family, a peep at the inside, cross-fertilization, hidden flowers, the compass-plant, how some plants get up in the world, carnivorous plants, witch-hazel, a thistle-head, etc.